WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.         A presence data management method implemented by a plurality of devices connected by a network and a presence server storing referred information on the users of the devices that the users agreed to disclose, comprising the steps of:

        receiving an information reference request from the device of a user requesting information reference;

        detecting information processing functions of the device of the user as an information reference requester;

        processing the referred information on a referred user requested by the information reference requester depending on the detected information processing functions; and

        sending the processed referred information to the device of the information reference requester.

2.         The presence data management method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step is executed in response to a change of the referred information on the referred user requested by the device of the information reference requester.

3.         The presence data management method according to claim 1, wherein:

        the presence server stores information on the information processing functions as an attribute of the device of the user as the information reference

requester, and

the detecting step is executed by referring to the stored attribute.

4.      The presence data management method according to claim 1, wherein:

the referred information includes multiple types of information of different media attributes, and

the referred information on the referred user to be sent to the device of the information reference requester is selected depending on the detected information processing functions in the processing step.

5.      The presence data management method according to claim 4, wherein in the selecting step, the selection of the referred information is carried out by comparing media attributes supported by the device of the information reference requester obtained by checking the detected information processing functions with the media attributes of the stored referred information.

6.      A message transmission method in a system including a plurality of devices connected by a network and a server transmitting messages using addresses of individual users of the devices as destinations, wherein:

the server also handles a group address of a group composed of one or more of the individual users as the destination, and

when a message transmission request designating the group address as the destination is received, the server carries out the message transmission using addresses of the individual users included in the group as the destinations, and

when a message transmission request designating two or more group addresses as the destinations or a message transmission request designating one or more group addresses and one or more addresses of individual users as the destinations is received, the server checks whether or not there exists an address of an individual user redundantly included in the destinations of the message regarding the message transmission request and thereby transmits the message to the destinations avoiding redundant transmission of the message to the same address.

7. A message transmission method according to claim 6, wherein the check of redundancy is carried out by expanding the group address into addresses of the individual users included in the group.

8. A message transmission method according to claim 6, wherein when there exists an address of an individual user redundantly included in the destinations, the number of the addresses of the individual user as the destinations is reduced to one so that only one message will be transmitted to the individual user.